

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----170857Z 114734 /14

P R 170638Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1310

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T AMMAN 2181

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR JO LE XF

SUBJECT: VISITS TO JORDAN OF IMAM MUSA SADR AND PIERRE GERMAYEL

1. IN MEETING APRIL 16 KING PASSED ON TO ME SOME  
OF HIS REACTIONS TO RECENT VISITS HERE OF LEBANESE  
LEADERS-- SHIIA IMAM MUSA SADR AND PHALANGE LEADER  
GEMAYAL.

2. KING IMPRESSED BY SADR AS MAN OF RELIGION WITH  
MODERN STREAK. IMAM RECOUNTED NUMEROUS EFFORTS  
MADE BY LEBANESE SHIIA COMMUNITY TO REMAIN OUT OF  
THE CONFLICT OVER LAST FEW YEARS. SOUTH LEBANON WAS NOW IN  
STATE OF ANARCHY. CHRISTIANS WERE TOO CLOSE TO  
ISRAELIS. CHAMOUN HAD LED CHRISTIANS IN DRIVE TO  
EXPAND THEIR AREA OF CONTROL AT THE EXPENSE OF  
SHIIA AND PALESTINIANS. IN THE PROCESS, CHRISTIANS  
HAD ATTACKED SOME SHIIA VILLAGES AND MASSACRES  
HAD OCCURRED.

3. SADR ASKED KING FOR UNDERSTANDING, SOME WEAPONS  
AND SOME TRAINING. KING SAID HE WOULD GIVE FORMER AND  
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WOULD CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHAT HE COULD DO IN CASE  
OF LATTER TWO QUESTIONS. SADR SAID HE WOULD KEEP  
IN TOUCH WITH KING THROUGH MONTHLY VISITS.

4. AT SADR'S SUGGESTION, KING ALSO UNDERTOOK TO  
SEND A MESSAGE TO CHAMOUN. HE TOLD CHAMOUN THAT  
HE SHOULD PULL IN ON HIS ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH. HE WAS

BECOMING KNOWN WORLD-WIDE AS TOO MUCH OF A REACTIONARY WHILE OTHER CHRISTIANS SUCH AS GEMAYEL AND FRANGIEH PORTRAYED THEMSELVES (KING IMPLIED SOMEWHAT FALSELY) AS MODERATES. KING SAID HE HAD RECEIVED GOOD LETTER FROM CHAMOUN SAYING HE WOULD GO ALONG WITH A CEASE FIRE.

5. KING DIGRESSED A BIT ABOUT DANY CHAMOUN WHO WAS HERE FOR A VISIT. DANY FEARED FOR HIS LIFE FROM SYRIANS AS KING HAS TOLD ME EARLIER. KING'S BROTHER HASSAN HAD RAISED ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT ASAD WHO DISCOUNTED COMPLETELY ANY SYRIAN THREAT. ELDER CHAMOUN HAD BEEN INVITED TO DAMASCUS BY ASAD AND DANY WAS GIVEN SAFE CONDUCT BACK TO LEBANON. DANY SAYS ELDER CHAMOUN UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT ASAD INVITATION IN NEAR FUTURE BECAUSE OF CONTINUING FEARS FOR HIS SAFETY IN SYRIA.

6. SADR ALSO ASKED FOR JORDANIAN ASSISTANCE WITH IRANIANS. IMAM FELT THAT IRANIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT WAS IN LARGE MEASURE RESPONSIBLE FOR DIFFICULTIES LEBANESE SHIIA HAD IN GETTING HELP AND AID FROM TEHRAN. KING SAID IRANIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT HAD FORMERLY BEEN IN AMMAN AND THAT KING CONSIDERED HIM "SOMEWHAT COMPLEX." HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO PATCH UP THINGS BETWEEN LEBANESE SHIIA AND THE SHAH AND WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH TEHRAN.

7. KING WAS LESS FORTHCOMING ABOUT GEMEYEL.

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KING CHARACTERIZED HIM AS ONE OF THOSE CHRISTIAN LEBANESE LEADERS WHO TALKS A GOOD GAME. HE CLEARLY DOES NOT CARE OVER FOR GEMAYEL ALTHOUGH HE SPOKE HIGHLY OF GEMAYEL'S SON AMIN WHO KING COMPARES WITH DANY CHAMOUN AS ANOTHER OF THE BRIGHT YOUNG PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN LEADERS.

8. BEFORE LEAVING THE KING HE ALSO TOLD ME THAT IMAM SADR WANTED KING TO RAISE QUESTION OF FUTURE OF SOUTH LEBANON IN WASHINGTON. KING SAID HE WOULD DO SO. I GAVE KING A LIST OF RECENT ACTIONS WE HAD TAKEN TO BRING ABOUT A CEASE FIRE. KING SEEMED PLEASED TO HEAR AGAIN HOW MUCH WE WERE WILLING TO ENGAGE OURSELVES WITH ALL PARTIES TO TRANQUILIZE THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. IMAM CLAIMED ALSO TO SPEAK IN NAME OF PRESIDENT SARKIS TO KING ABOUT RAISING SOUTHERN LEBANON DURING WASHINGTON VISIT.  
PICKERING

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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